

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosotani et al. (U.S. 6,469,913). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 11-20.

Claim 11 recites:

A switching power-supply unit comprising:
an inductor or a transformer;
a plurality of switching elements switching a current flowing in the inductor or the transformer and converting power by turning on and off the switching elements; and
a switching control circuit that turns on the next of the plurality of switching elements in accordance with a change of a voltage or a current generated due to turning off of one of the switching elements in an ON-state, that sequentially turns on and off the switching elements in association with each other, that repeats a series of on-off operations of the switching elements periodically, that determines an ON-period of each of the switching elements in accordance with a condition independently provided for each of the switching elements, and that controls the ON-period of each of the switching elements. (emphasis added)

With the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's Claim 11, including the feature of "a switching control circuit ... that determines an ON-period of each of the switching elements in accordance with a condition independently provided for each of the switching elements, and that controls the ON-period of each of the switching elements," Applicant has been able to provide a switching power-supply unit in which the turning-on of a plurality of switching elements at one time is prevented, a plurality of output voltages can be stabilized, and an oscillation circuit is not required (see, for example, the last two paragraphs on page 4 and the first paragraph on page 5 of Applicant's originally filed specification).

The Examiner alleged that Hosotani et al. teaches all of the features recited in claim 11. Particularly, the Examiner alleged, "Hosotani et al. disclose a switching power supply unit (figure 2) comprising: an inductor (L) or a transformer (T); a plurality of

switching elements (Q1, Q2) switching a current flowing in the inductor or the transformer and converting power (V_{in} to V_o) by turning on and off the switching elements (Q1, Q2); and a switching control circuit (11, 12, 14, etc) that turns on the next of the plurality of switching elements in accordance with a change of a voltage or a current generated due to turning off of one of the switching elements in an ON-state (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-5), that sequentially turns on and off the switching elements in association with each other, that repeats a series of on-off operations of the switching elements periodically, that determines an ON-period of each of the switching elements in accordance with a condition independently provided for each of the switching elements, and that controls the ON-period of each of the switching elements (col. 12 lines 7-50).” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Contrary to the Examiner’s allegations, the ON-period of each switching element Q1, Q2 of Hosotani et al. is predetermined by a control circuit 11, 12 (see, for example, Fig. 3 and col. 11, line 29 to col. 13, line 67 of Hosotani et al.). The control circuits 11, 12 of Hosotani et al. do not, and in fact are incapable of, determining an ON-period of each of the switching elements Q1, Q2 in accordance with any condition that is independently provided for each switching element. As disclosed in col. 9, line 50 to col. 10, line 39 of Hosotani et al., each of the control circuit 11, 12 of Hosotani et al. includes a time constant circuit which sets the ON-period of each switching element Q1, Q2 to a predetermined value, and renders the control circuits 11, 12 incapable of determining an ON-period of either of the switching elements Q1, Q2 in accordance with any condition that is independently provided for each switching element.

Thus, Hosotani et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest the feature of “a switching control circuit ... that determines an ON-period of each of the switching elements in accordance with a condition independently provided for each of the switching elements, and that controls the ON-period of each of the switching elements” as recited in Applicant’s Claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosotani et

al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12-20 depend upon Claim 11, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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